

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 162428 TOSEC 060053

FOLLOWING REPEAT MOGADISCIO 0992 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ADDIS
ABABA CAIRO JIDDA LONDON MOSCOW NAIROBI DATED JULY 10.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0992

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, SU, SO

SUBJECT: SOVIET INTEREST IN CONGRESSIONAL VISIT

REF: A) MOGADISCIO 964 B) MOGADISCIO 967 (NOTAL C) MOGADISCIO 972
(NOTAL) D) MOGADISCIO 960 (NOTAL)

1. ON JULY 4 SOVIET AMBASSADOR SAMSONOV ASKED TO SEE ME MORNING
OF JULY 5 TO DISCUSS SENATOR BARTLETT VISIT TO BERBERA. HE
CANCELLED APPOINTMENT FOLLOWING DAY BUT WE FINALLY GOT TOGETHER
ON JULY 7. HE APPEARED MUCH MORE RELAXED THAN HE HAD BEEN THREE
DAYS EARLIER.

2. I INFORMED HIM IN GENERAL TERMS OF SUCCESS OF SENATOR BARTLETT'S
VISIT AND MORE SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED BY CONGRESSMAN
STRATTON. I ALSO EMPHASIZED POSITIVE NATURE OF SENATOR BARTLETT'S
FINAL EXCHANGES WITH SIAD (MOGADISCIO 964).

3. SAMSONOV TOLD ME THAT MISSILE HANDLING FACILITY AT BERBERA WAS
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FOR SHORT-RANGE MISSILE FOR SOMALI NAVY (HE DID NOT RPT NOT USE
WORD STYX) WHICH HAD RANGE OF ONLY TWENTY MILES. HE ALSO ADMITTED
THAT HE HAD MET WITH SIAD FOLLOWING BART-
LETT'S TOUR OF BERBERA.

HE SAID THAT SIAD HAD NOT RPT NOT BEEN COMPLETELY IMPRESSED BY HIS CONVERSATION WITH BARTLETT. I BELIEVE SAMSONOV WAS NOT TELLING THE TRUTH.

4. REGARDING TECHNICIANS WHO ACCOMPANIED BARTLETT, SAMSONOV CLAIMED THAT SIAD VERY MUCH CONCERNED THAT EXPERTS WOULD DRAW CONCLUSIONS AT BERBERA BASED UPON WHAT THEY WANTED TO FIND RATHER THAN WHAT THEY SAW. I TOLD HIM TECHNICIANS HAD BEEN COMPLETELY OBJECTIVE IN THEIR APPROACH. MOREOVER, SUFFERING THEY HAD OBSERVED AT REFUGEE AND RESETTLEMENT CAMPS HAD WON THEM OVER COMPLETELY TO SOMALI SIDE AND ALL HOPED US COULD DO MORE TO HELP SOMALIA. THEY HAD NOT RPT NOT COME TO SOMALIA WITH ANY FIXED IDEAS IN MIND.

5. I WOULD SUPPOSE THAT IT IS SAMSONOV, RATHER THAN SIAD, THAT WAS CONCERNED ABOUT AMERICAN TECHNICIANS. SAMSONOV OF COURSE WOULD HAVE BEEN MESSAGE BEARER TO SIAD WARNING HIM THAT BARTLETT'S FOOTLOOSE TECHNICIANS AT BERBERA JULY 4 HAD SLIPPED SULEIMAN'S LEASH AND WERE GOING PLACES THEY HAD NO RPT NO BUSINESS GOING (MOGADISCIO 960) AND STRATTON'S GROUP SHOULD BE HELD IN CHECK IF INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT WAS TO BE AVOIDED.

6. FOLLOWING STRATTON'S LESS SUCCESSFUL TOUR OF BERBERA JULY 6, REPORTS WERE SPREADING AMONG SOMALI OFFICIALS AT JUBA FOLLOWING OFFICIAL BANQUET THAT STRATTON HIMSELF WAS QTE RETIRED PENTAGON ADMIRAL UNQTE. THIS BIT OF MISCHIEF WAS, I ASSUME, ALSO OF SOVIET ORIGIN.

7. SAMSONOV LEFT MOGADISCIO FOR TWO-MONTH VACTION ON JULY 8 -- TWO DAYS LATER THAN HE HAD ANTICIPATED.
HAMRICK UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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